

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated September 30, 2008, claims 1-13, 15, and 18-28 were pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 4-7, 11-13, 15, 18-20, and 24-26 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b).

In this Amendment, claim 8 has been amended, and new claims 29 and 30 added. Claims 1-7, 9-13, 15, and 18-28 have been canceled, without prejudice, reserving right to prosecution in a continuation application. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Support for the present Amendment should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure in the written description of the specification. The limitations recited in dependent claims 9 and 10 have been incorporated into claim 8.

Claims 8, 29, and 30 are now active in this application, of which claim 8 is independent.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 21-23, 27, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Auld (U.S. Patent No. 5,398,072) in view of Takabatake et al. (DRAM Interface for MPEG2 Video Decoder LSI, hereinafter "Takabatake"). It is noted that the rejection of claims 1-3, 9, 10, 21-23, 27, and 28 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Applicants submit that Auld and Takabatake, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a picture decoding and display unit including all the limitations recited in independent claim 8. Specifically, the applied combination does not teach, among other things, the following limitations recited in claim 8:

said decoding processing is carried out in units of blocks of the pixel data of prescribed sizes on a screen, said picture including M said prescribed sizes of blocks in a horizontal direction on said screen,

said control means further including delay means for delaying a timing for starting said decoding processing of said decoding means by a time required for reading said pixel data of said M blocks from said storage means,

said bit stream includes data structure information indicating whether said pixel data of said picture are supplied in a unit of a field or in a unit of a frame including said pixel data of said two fields in a mixed state,

said decoding means includes extraction means for extracting said data structure information from said bit stream and designating a data structure indicated by said data structure information, and

said control means including means for inactivating said delay means in response to indication of said unit of said field by said data structure information supplied from said extraction means.

According to claim 8, if incoming picture data are supplied in a unit of a field, the delay of a time period corresponding to one macro block line for a decoding start timing can be invalidated. The claimed subject matter can selectively invalidate the delay time for the decoding start timing depending on whether the incoming picture data are supplied in a unit of a frame or in a unit of a field, to handle a plurality of picture types.

In the Office Action, the Examiner admitted that Auld fails to disclose processing of a B picture. However, the Examiner asserted that Takabatake discloses such processing of B picture, and concluded that it would have been obvious to modify the system of Auld based on the teachings of Takabatake to arrive at the claimed subject matter. See the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion regarding Takabatake.

The Examiner relied on Figure 1 of Takabatake showing a pipeline recording and display. However, Takabatake merely discloses the delay of decoding start for B pictures and the picture

data are supplied in a unit of a frame. Takabatake does not teach that selective delay of decoding start of B pictures depending on the type of incoming picture data. Accordingly, Takabatake does not cure the deficiencies of Auld.

Based on the foregoing, Auld and Takabatake, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a picture decoding and display unit including all the limitations recited in independent claim 8. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 and favorable consideration thereof.

New Claims 29 and 30

Applicants believe that new claims 29 and 30 are patentably distinguishable over Auld and Takabatake at least because these claims respectively include all the limitations recited in independent claim 8. Favorable consideration of the new claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Application No.: 08/908,599

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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